Book-stall contract at Shikohabad and not at Ferozabad Railway station. A statement correcting the reply given earlier to Unstarred Question No. 1853 is being laid on the Table of the Sabha.

High level Railway platforms at Naya Ghaziabad

80. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds for provision of high level platforms at Naya Ghaziabad railway station were sanctioned in 1988-89 Budget; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not starting the work and what is the likely period for its completion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Contract for the work of raising the platform at Naya Ghaziabad Railway Station has been awarded and the delay is on account of the contractor not commencing the work for which suitable action as per prestribed procedure has been initiated.

Delinking of Kannauj by conversion of Kanpur-Lucknow M.G. line into B.G. line

81. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that after conversion of Kanpur-Lucknow Metre Gauge line into Broad Gauge, the historical city of Kannauj would be delinked from the State Capital as well as from the national capital by rail;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to avoid this situation;

(c) whether Government are aware that the conversion of MG line between Farrukhabad and Kanpur into B.G. is likely to open new vistas for providing alternative routes for the far-flung areas of the country; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). After conversion of Kanpur-Lucknow MG line into BG, which is aimed at providing BG double line on the section, the MG trains from Farrukhabad-Kannauj side will be terminated at Kanpur. Passengers travelling to/from Lucknow or New Delhi can change over to connecting BG/MG trains at Kanpur

(c) and (d) *Prima facie* there appears to be a possibility of an alternative route being opened if the existing MG line from Kanpur is converted into BG, not only upto Farrukhabad, but upto Kasganj and a short BG link constructed between Kasganj and Aligarh.

Displaying of DTC Routes at Important Terminals.

82. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the timings of various DTC routes have not been displayed so far on all important terminals in the Captial for the convenience of the commuters;

(b) whether any suggestions/requests have been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Out of 28 important terminals of DTC services, boards indicating route-timings have already been displayed at 23 terminals. Action to put up the boards at remaining five places by DTC is in progress.

(b) DTC has informed that they have not received any suggestion in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of National Ports Authority

83. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 319 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th April, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government have since finalised the details of the proposal for setting up of National Ports Authority; and

(b) if so, by when it is proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No. Sir.

(a) The Question does not arise.

Concessional Passes for Journalists

84. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue concessional passes for journalists to enable them to travel in D.T.C. buses; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The facility of concessional passes has been already extended by DTC to the journalists. All route concessional passes are issued to accredited press representatives at the rate of Rs. 70/- per pass per month to enable them to travel in its buses. These passes are valid on all types of city buses including night services except Indira Gandhi International Airport Coach and tourist services.

Procuring of Phosphoric Acid Carriers by Shipping Corporation of India

85. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shipping Corporation of India propose to procure three phosphoric acid carriers; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and the name of the country from which these will be procured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Phosphoric Acid Carriers are to be procured from Spain at a price of US $ 29.1 million each. The Government of Spain have agreed to provide a soft loan to meet a part of the credit requirements.

Enhancing of Financial Powers of Port Trusts

86. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have enhanced the financial powers of Port Trusts in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) In May, 1988 Government revised the delegation of powers to the Port Trusts and *inter alia* enhanced the powers of Port Trust Boards to sanction new works or appliances for plan schemes in